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Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Written statement* submitted by Iranian Thalassemia Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[5 February 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Situation of Palestinian Prisoners

Introduction

For years Palestinians have been detained, arrested, tortured, sentenced to long prison terms, and imprisoned in appalling conditions. Palestinian detainees held in prisons are subjected to inhumane conditions, including medical deprivation and solitary confinement, deteriorating their health condition. What Happens in these Prisons is a clear violation of all humanitarian rules.

According to international documents, it is very important to house prisoners in suitable conditions and to ensure access to medical care and medical equipment. All prisons should be equipped with a clinic to ensure prisoners receive the care they need.

Violation of the right to health of Palestinian prisoners in the occupying power prisons

For over 50 years, these occupied territories raised the issue of the colonial reality and systematic human rights violations which subjugated millions of Palestinians to live under in the Occupied West Bank. Administrative detention is a mechanism that permits the Occupying Authority to imprison detainees without charge or trial for an indefinite period of time based on 'classified information'. Since 1967, administrative detention has been widely used against Palestinians. The Occupying Power Supreme Court has ruled in a number of cases that neither the prisoner nor the attorney may obtain the evidence, with no consideration to prisoners' right to a just trial which breaches the right of administrative detainees to be aware of the circumstances surrounding their arrest.

Despite the administrative detainee being entitled to family visits under legislation, many administrative detainees are denied this right. Their families suffer as they have to endure months of restlessness about their loved ones' psychological and mental well-being of being incarcerated indefinitely.

The Iranian Thalassemia Association, which has been the victim of grave Human Rights abuses by the United States of America and some Western countries, believes that disregard for Human Rights regarding the right to health, which is one of the most fundamental human rights, is a clear violation of Human Rights.

Over the years, the right to the physical and mental health of Palestinians, especially Palestinian prisoners held in prisons of the occupying power, has been violated through numerous ground and air strikes with deadly weapons, torture, arrests, brutal killings of civilians, demolition of houses, appalling condition of the prisons, to name but a few.

Providing suitable health conditions and ensuring the right to health in these prisons have been warned and Human Rights Council has been asked to take necessary and effective measures to devise a new mechanism for the condition of Palestinian prisoners.
